

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method comprising:

receiving a request for a function space at a digital processing system, the digital processing system containing an availability information for one or more function spaces at a plurality of remote properties and a set of pricing rules for one or more function spaces, the request including a plurality of criteria;

determining an availability of the requested function space based upon the availability information and one or more of the criterion; and

determining a price for the requested function space based upon the set of pricing rules and one or more of the criterion.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein the plurality of criteria includes criteria selected from a group of criteria consisting of date, day-part, current demand and supplementary sales.
3. The method of claim 1 wherein the plurality of remote properties are individual hotels of a hotel chain.
4. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

providing the price for the requested function space to a user in real-time.

5. The method of claim 4 further comprising:
receiving an acceptance of the price for the requested function space from the user; and
establishing a reservation for the requested function space.
6. The method of claim 4 further comprising:
receiving a rejection of the price for the requested function space from the user; and
providing alternatives to one or more of the plurality of criteria in real-time.
7. The method of claim 5 wherein establishing a reservation for the requested function space includes allocating a function space of a specified category, the category specified by one or more category-related criteria included in the plurality of criteria of the request.
8. The method of claim 7 wherein the category-related criteria include one or more criterion selected from the group consisting of attendance, event type, setup styles and area.
9. A machine-readable medium that provides executable instructions, which when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform a method, the method comprising:
receiving a request for a function space at a digital processing system, the digital processing system containing an availability information for one or more function spaces at a plurality of remote properties and a set of pricing rules for one or more function spaces, the request including a plurality of criteria;
determining an availability of the requested function space based upon the availability information and one or more of the criterion; and

determining a price for the requested function space based upon the set of pricing rules and one or more of the criterion.

10. The machine-readable medium of claim 9 wherein the plurality of criteria includes criteria selected from a group of criteria consisting of date, day-part, current demand and supplementary sales.

11. The machine-readable medium of claim 9 wherein the plurality of remote properties are individual hotels of a hotel chain.

12. The machine-readable medium of claim 9 further comprising:
providing the price for the requested function space to a user in real-time.

13. The machine-readable medium of claim 12 further comprising:
receiving an acceptance of the price for the requested function space from the user; and
establishing a reservation for the requested function space.

14. The machine-readable medium of claim 12 further comprising:
receiving a rejection of the price for the requested function space from the user; and
providing alternatives to one or more of the plurality of criteria in real-time.

15. The machine-readable medium of claim 13 wherein establishing a reservation for the requested function space includes allocating a function space of a specified category, the

category specified by one or more category-related criteria included in the plurality of criteria of the request.

16. The machine-readable medium of claim 15 wherein the category-related criteria include one or more criterion selected from the group consisting of attendance, event type, setup styles and area.

17. A system comprising:

one or more user input devices, each user input device to provide a request for a function space, the request including a plurality of criteria; and

a central digital processing system having a memory device, the memory device having stored thereon a set of pricing rules and an availability information for one or more function spaces at a plurality of remote properties, the central digital processing system coupled to the one or more user input devices to provide an availability determination for the requested function space based upon the availability information and one or more of the criterion, and a price determination for the requested function space based upon the set of pricing rules and one or more of the criterion.

18. The system of claim 17 wherein the plurality of criteria includes criteria selected from a group of criteria consisting of date, day-part, current demand and supplementary sales.

19. The system of claim 17 wherein the plurality of remote properties are individual hotels of a hotel chain.

20. The system of claim 17 further comprising:
providing the price determination for the requested function space to a user in real-time.
21. The system of claim 20 further comprising:
receiving an acceptance of the price for the requested function space from the user; and
establishing a reservation for the requested function space.
22. The system of claim 20 further comprising:
receiving a rejection of the price determination for the requested function space from the user; and
providing alternatives to one or more of the plurality of criteria in real-time.
23. The system of claim 21 wherein establishing a reservation for the requested function space includes allocating a function space of a specified category, the category specified by one or more category-related criteria included in the plurality of criteria of the request.
24. The system of claim 23 wherein the category-related criteria include one or more criterion selected from the group consisting of attendance, event type, setup styles and area.